

IN THE LOOP, *Volume 1, Issue 3*

Legislative Email Update

Good news from Lansing! As your state Senator I am proud to tell you that my bill was the first bill signed by our new Governor. The bill was supported in a bipartisan fashion and unanimously supported!



SENATOR PATTERSON MAKES HISTORY. Senator Bruce Patterson made Michigan history on April 3 as Governor Jennifer Granholm signed her first bill, Patterson's Senate Bill 160, into law. Present at the bill signing in the ceremonial office of the Governor in the Michigan State Capitol, from left to right, are Thomas H. McTavish, Auditor General of the State of Michigan, Senator Patterson, Gov. Granholm and Lt. Gov. John Cherry. Senate Bill 160 creates a new act to specify the responsibilities and authority of the Auditor General.

The picture on the right includes the following from left to right: Northville Township Trustee Marvin Gans, Senator Patterson's wife Phyllis, Northville City Mayor Chris Johnson, Northville Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Laurie Marrs, Northville City Councilmember Jerome Mittman, and Northville Township Trustee Brad Werner.



FORMER SENATOR BENNETT CELEBRATES THE PASSAGE OF PATTERSON'S FIRST BILL AS A SENATOR

Senator Bruce Patterson receives ice cream from former Senator Loren Bennett on the Senate floor on Thursday, March 27, 2003. The ice cream was compliments of Bennett's Ice Cream for the passage of Patterson's first bill as a state Senator. It is a tradition in the legislature to treat their colleagues with something from their district on the passage of their first bill. Food is the preferred gift! The Senate enjoyed the ice cream and some wished they had a Bennett's Ice Cream in their district. If you want some good old fashion ice cream visit Bennett's Ice Cream, located on the corner of Lilley and Cherry Hill in Canton.



SENATOR PATTERSON 'S EMERALD ASH BORER RESOLUTION PASSED BY COMMITTEE

Senator Bruce Patterson, R-Canton, is pictured with Mr. Jim Gallogly, City of Northville Public Works Director, at the Senate Agriculture, Forestry and Tourism Committee on April 3. Mr. Gallogly was testifying on the affects of the Emerald Ash Borer in Southeast Michigan. Patterson's resolution no. 49, which urges the United States Congress and the U.S. Department of Agriculture to assist in the eradication of the emerald ash borer, was reported by the committee to the full Senate for consideration.

HOMELAND SECURITY WEBSITE LAUNCHED

Michigan residents have a new tool in keeping their families safe from harm. The Executive Office has launched a new Web site for homeland security, designed to help keep Michigan families informed by giving them the most up-to-date security information so they can protect themselves in the unlikely event of emergency. The Web site serves as a comprehensive source of information on homeland security issues. The new site incorporates information from federal and state agencies, including Michigan State Police, Department of Community Health, Public Service Commission, Military and Veterans Affairs, Department of Agriculture and Department of Education. Included in the page is an "Our Troops" link which gives current deployment information, what citizens can do to support families who have loved ones serving overseas, and a photo album containing pictures of some of our servicemen and women. The Web site is located at www.michigan.gov/homeland.

****UPDATE ON MICHIGAN'S 2-1-1 SYSTEM****

The non-emergency 211 number reserved by the FCC has recently been adopted by the Michigan Legislature. Michigan residents now have access to an easy-to-remember, free-to-the-user phone number linking people with the services they need 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Whether a parent wants help for his child with a learning impairment, a frightened wife seeks shelter from her volatile husband, a senior wants to volunteer or a family searches for employment, 211 can locate the help they are looking for. Dialing 211 connects the caller to a specialist who can assess the caller's needs and link the caller to the right solution using services from federal, state and local government and non-profit agencies. The new 211 non-emergency number is free of charge to the user, and is currently available in Kent and Calhoun Counties. Approximately 66 percent of the Michigan population will have the service available within 12 months.

COST-SAVING MEASURES FOR EDUCATION INTRODUCED

Testimony received from school administrators during a series of informational hearings have transformed into legislation designed to save school districts funds in their operating budgets. Over the last three weeks the Senate Education Committee invited local school administrators to come forth and testify to the committee suggestions on how school districts across the state can save money in their budgets. Based on those suggestions a five-bill school flexibility package was introduced this week that includes: eliminating the state mandated minimum number of schools days, streamlining the Center for Educational Performance and Information, eliminating professional development requirements, eliminating restrictions on the use of at-risk and school readiness funds and eliminating 'Education YES.' The legislation will be addressed by the Senate Education Committee.

APRIL IS CHILD ABUSE AWARENESS MONTH

Michigan residents join the nation in observing April as Child Abuse Awareness Month. The designation will help raise awareness of the significant problem, an important step in addressing the needs of children who are abused or neglected. New research on child development, cited by the Michigan Children's Trust Fund, reinforces the importance of creating a loving environment for young children. Children who are free from abuse and neglect develop a strong inner self, a healthy physical body and a higher IQ. For more information on how to stop child abuse, contact the Michigan Children's Trust Fund at (800) CHILDREN.

GAS GOUGING WEBSITE LAUNCHED

Michigan consumers now have an additional tool to ensure that they are not subject to gas gouging. A new website was launched this week, www.michigan.gov/gasprices, to provide information on the quality, quantity and prices on gasoline from gas stations around the state. The website has been developed by the Departments of Agriculture and Information Technology, the Michigan Public Service Commission and the Attorney General's Office. Consumers may search for gas prices by city and zip code, receive fuel efficiency tips and find gas gouging complaint forms on the website.

PATTERSON'S RESOLUTION DESIGNATES APRIL AS "RAISE THE FLAGS AND DIG SAFELY" MONTH

In an effort to protect public safety and reduce damages to underground utilities, the Michigan Legislature declared the month of April as "Raise the Flags and Dig Safely" month. Raise the Flags is the public awareness campaign of the Michigan Damage Prevention Board, a partnership of Michigan utilities and MISS DIG System, Inc., a one-call construction safety and utility damage prevention center that coordinates utility and telecommunications staking requests.

Sen. Bruce Patterson Chair of the Senate Technology & Energy Committee sponsored the resolution. The focus of the month is to remind Michigan businesses and residents to call MISS DIG before beginning construction or excavation projects, wait the required amount of time, respect the staking marks, expose utility lines by hand-digging and dig safely. The first week of April traditionally is the start of the construction season.

LOCALS VISIT LANSING

Marvin Gans, Northville Township Trustee

Chris Johnson, Northville City Mayor

Laurie Marrs, Northville Chamber of Commerce Executive Director

Jerome Mittman, Northville City Councilmember

Brad Werner, Northville Township Trustee

Jim Gallogly, City of Northville Public Works Director

John Sturk, Michigan State University student from our district

Chris Harper

Steve Spreitzer, representative from the Catholic Conference, member of our district

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If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or one of my staff members.

Thank you for your continued interest in the legislative activities of the Michigan Senate. Again, should you have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,

Bruce Patterson
State Senator - 7th District

If you wish to remove your name from my Legislative E-mail Update list, please respond to this message with "remove" as the subject and your name and your spouse's name (if applicable) in the body of the message. If you have comments, questions, or concerns, please email me at senbpatterson@senate.michigan.gov or call my toll free number at (866) 262-7307.

Please feel free to forward this message on to friends and family. If you need to sign up for my updates, please email me at senbpatterson@senate.michigan.gov. You may also visit my website at <http://www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/patterson/>